MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 344.

Pending proposals for the development of Paradip Port

*344. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY :†
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what proposals are pending for approval with his Ministry for the development of Paradip Port ;

(b) what are the details with regard to the financial and technical viability of each such proposal ; and

(c) what is the view of his Ministry on each proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The following major proposals regarding development of Paradip Port at present are under consideration of the Ministry of Surface Transport.

(i) Construction of a Multi-purpose Berth at an estimated cost of Rs. 24·94 crores ;

(ii) Development of mechanised coal handling facilities for handling of thremal coal for the thermal, power plants in Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of Rs. 511·25 crores;

(iii) Development of Paradip Port for accommodating vessels upto 1.7 lakh DWT for export of 6 million tonnes of iron ore at an estimated cost of Rs. 566·00 crores.

(b) and (c) The proposals mentioned above are technically viable. The appraisal of the financial viability of the projects is under way.

SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Sir, the Minister has chosen to answer my question in a very selective manner. His ministry has confirmed that they have sent 37 proposals to the Planning Commission for approval in July, 1990, but the Minister has chosen not to mention that. Three of the most important projects are still lying in his Department. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether, in view of the non-approval of any berth by the Central Government since 1986, he would like to approve these three major projects and allow the Paradip Port Trust to spend its surplus revenue on the execution of the major projects pending final approval by the Planning Commission.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, approval in the Seventh Plan, 1985—90, was for an outlay of Rs. 42 40 crores and, as against this, an expenditure of 45·37 crores was incurred during the Seventh Plan period. The important schemes which were cleared during the Seventh Plan period were construction of a cargo berth, construction of a fertilizer berth, replacement of the bucket wheel reclaimer, replacement of the cargo-handling equipment, improvement and modification of iron ore berth. So, actually, in 1990-91, we had an outlay of Rs. 9·61 crores about which the honourable Member has asked. This was against the actual expenditure of Rs. 8·54 crores which was incurred. For 1991-92, there was an outlay of Rs. 39·65 crores which was made, but the actual expenditure went up to November 1991 is Rs. 30·48 crores and the total anticipated expenditure during this year is Rs. 20 crores. Now, we have formed a Working Group and the Working Group has come up with some important schemes in the Eighth Plan which would interest the honourble Member. These schemes are replacement of the existing iron ore-handling equipment which comes to about Rs. 25 crores, construction of two coal berths with mechanical handling facilities—Rs. 150 crores, construction of oil berth including replacement facilities—Rs 25 crores, acquisition of locomotives—Rs. 7·50 crores, extension of the existing railway tracks inside the port area—Rs. 5 crores and construction of multi-purpose cargo berth—Rs. 20 crores, and, Sir, any income in respect of the Port Trust is spent on the development of the port only.

SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Sir, I now come to my second supplementary. Sir, the multi-purpose cargo berth, which the honourable Minister has mentioned, has been lying with his Ministry for about one year or so. Could he assure me in this House that his Ministry would clear it and allow the Paradip Port Trust to utilise its surplus revenue to start that work ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, in April 1989 the multi-purpose cargo berth proposal for Rs. 29·099 crores was made

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri Pravat Kumar Samantaray.

And I would like to tell the hon. Member the present position of that. The draft Note has been circulated on the 28th January, 1991. And the final Note has to be issued.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over. Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New adventure package by the ITDC in Madhya Pradesh

*345. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, recently ITDC in its new adventure package in the tented camp at Narwar in the Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh gave a new dimension to tourism in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have earned any profit from this package and what are the details of investment and earnings therefrom; and

(d) whether Government intend to promote tented camps at other places in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The India Tourism Development Corporation has introduced an adventure package tour based on tented accommodation at Narwar as an experiment to develop new tourist destination in backward and remote areas. The package tour includes facilities of tented accommodation, food and transport and makes provision for various adventure sports.

(c) Government supports such adventure camps purely as promotional ventures and does not expect to earn any profits from them.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Nepal Prime Minister's visit to India

*346. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister will streng then cooperation between two countries; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit of the Prime Minister G. P. Koirala of Nepal to India from December 5-10-1991, extensive and oroductive discussions were held on a wide range of issues of mutual interest. This visit was preceded by the meeting of the Indo-Nepal Joint Commission, chaired by me and the Nepalese Co-Chairman. Shri Maheshwar Prasad Singh. On December 4 and 5, 1991. The report of the Joint Commission was a major input for the talks between the two Prime Ministers and their delegations. A number of Treaties and Agreements—an Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, an Indo-Nepal Treaty of Transit, an Agreement for Cooperation in Controlling Unauthorised Trade, a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Agriculture and a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation—were signed during the visit. The Trade Treaty contains several new facilities and concessions meant to promote Nepalese exports to India, and the new Transit Treaty has considerably simplified customs and other procedures. Both sides have committed themselves to cooperating fully to control the growing scourge of smuggling which seriously affects the Indian economy. A number of Key decisions were also taken concerning various hydel projects and other aspects of cooperation in water resources development, the sector with the maximum potential for substantially benefitting both the countries. Special attention was paid to promoting Indo-Nepal joint ventures—including a particularly favourable access regime to the Indian market for the products of approved joint ventures with a view to assisting the industrial development of Nepal. A number of new Indian aid projects were also identified, in the fields of public health, communications and telecommunications. Concrete steps were identified for promoting cooperation in civil aviation and tourism. Both Governments have thus prepared the ground for ushering in new era in mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation.

Pollution check of vehicles

*347. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: